

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: February 3, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Published Monthly  
CWP Vol. 04 No 2



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609  
Olympia, WA 98507  
360-902-1940

---

## Crop and Weather Information for the Month of January 2004

### WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** It appeared as though an early spring had arrived on the Harbor. Unseasonably warm temperatures throughout the month and copious rainfall resulted in early emergence of foliage on Peach Plums and other native plants. Soils remained super saturated as the result of heavy rainfall during the latter part of the month. Daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs were up and showing buds. Christmas tree growers began planting.

**Pierce/Southern King:** Crop conditions were not too bad for this time of the year. The temperature was mild, allowing the pasture grass to grow. There were some minor flooding in the usual places. There was no report of crop damage due to any weather event in January.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably warm weather throughout the month had many producers predicting an early spring. Very mild temperatures averaging in the 50's resulted in some native plants producing new foliage. Christmas tree growers reported root aphids visible on Grand fir trees and silver spotted tiger moth on Douglas fir. Pastures were actively growing. Heavy rainfall the last day of the month resulted in some minor flooding along major rivers.

### CENTRAL

**Benton:** Much needed moisture improved soil conditions. Pruning continued. Very little cold injury was reported in fruit crops.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The month of January brought moisture for the county. For a couple of days temperatures were over 50 degrees. If the county receives low temperatures, it could have an impact on the trees and vine crops which have yet to recover from the October-November freezing temperatures. During the month of January, 1.7 inches of rain was received and temperatures were 5 degrees warmer than normal.

### EASTERN

**Asotin/Garfield:** Above normal rainfall in January was a welcomed change to the past drought conditions. Temperatures were also well above normal. Most of the rain soaked into the ground with very little runoff. Winter wheat continued to emerge and grow throughout January and was looking better. The crop is vulnerable to a freeze, if we get any cold weather in February. There was no snowpack in the mountains, so there were concerns about water supplies for next summer. Pastures and rangeland have improved, but were in poor condition in some areas due to the past several years of drought.

**Lincoln:** Precipitation for January was good, although more is needed to offset last year's drought. Combined with relatively mild temperatures, the winter wheat crop appeared to be in good condition.



Visit our Internet World Wide Web site at:  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>